

HOUSE RESOLUTION 151

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to create a special House committee to study the development and implementation of a long-term care services plan.

WHEREAS, Tennessee remains last among the fifty states in the percentage of citizens receiving home and community-based services through Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's ratio of nursing home spending to home and community-based services spending in 2003 was 148 to 1, nearly five times higher than the second highest state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's nearly \$1 billion nursing home budget has yet to be fully reviewed for the potential to better manage the resources dedicated to the people it serves; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is ranked as sixth-highest among the fifty states in the percentage of adults with self-care or mobility limitations; and

WHEREAS, the current home and community-based services programs provide only limited services that do not allow many individuals to avoid placement in nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures has identified reform of long-term care as the number one way to save money in state Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee established in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-1402, that the State's long-term care services plan should include several principles, including:

(1) Long-term care programs and services should enhance independence, dignity, choice, and individual well-being;

(2) Elderly and disabled Tennesseans will receive the care and services which are most appropriate for their needs and aspirations;

(3) Long-term care services should be provided at the most economical cost and in the least restrictive setting; and

(4) Funding for long-term care services should follow the consumer regardless of delivery method utilized, and without regard to whether such services are categorized as medical care; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bredesen has publicly stated a commitment to develop a long-term care system that makes economical sense and provides expanded home and community-based service options; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that there is hereby created a special House committee to study the development and implementation of a long-term care services plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than January 31, 2008, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.